

that it was ready to ship another large turtle—this one weighs 117 pounds—if Dr. Herald wants it. He does. In fact, he hopes eventually to house a dozen large snappers in the swamp.

SCHOOL SHOWS HAVE RECORD ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE at special school shows in Morrison Planetarium for the 1956-57 school year just completed reached an all-time high, reports Lorraine Rogers, who talks herself hoarse arranging with teachers to bring their classes to special morning shows.

Nearly 50,000 school children attended the special shows during the year compared to about 36,000 for the 1955-56 school year—a whopping increase of 14,000.

DECORATIVE FEATURE PLANNED

MANY OF THE TANKS in Steinhart Aquarium will have a decorative air when a beautiful collection of coral from Wake Island, the only Wake Island coral to be shown in the country, is placed on display.

Exquisite in shape and shades, the coral was collected through the skin-diving efforts of Pat and Jean Kauauni—who live on Wake—and was brought here in four large crates aboard the Standard Oil of California tanker, the *F. S. Bryant*.

TRAVELERS RETURN TO ACADEMY

THE SUMMER TRAVEL bug also attacked two Planetarium staffers last month, in a purely businesslike fashion, of course. George Bunton, Planetarium manager, flew to Flagstaff, Arizona, where he attended the annual meeting of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, while Alvin Gundred, chief Planetarium technician, left for San Diego just a few days later.

Gundred went to San Diego to help officials of the Museum of Natural History in that city install a new Foucault Pendulum, designed and built in the Academy's instrument shop. In fact, Gundred did most of the work on the pendulum himself.

PLANETARIUM OFFERS EASY TRIP

FOR TWO MONTHS—July 3 through September 2—Morrison Planetarium is offering the opportunity to take a wonderful trip without leaving San Francisco. The Planetarium's summer show this year is "A Trip to the Moon" and the takeoff, voyage through space and landing on the moon will be simulated for viewers of the show. They will also get a preliminary peek at what the future holds for the first adventurers who land on the moon.

NEW MEMBERS

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS were elected by the Council at its meeting of June 11, 1957:

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Mr. I. W. Doerksen
Miss Karen C. Engelhart
Miss Eugenia Grunsky
Mr. Luis S. Heinrich
Mr. Allan R. Johannes
Professor Adel S. Kamal
Mr. George W. Strattan
Mr. Stephen Van Fleet

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Philip B. Carnahan

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Ronald M. Kahn
John A. O'Kane, Jr.
Wayne K. Pugh
Carol Roberts
Constantine Slobodchikoff

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UP-TO-DATE COVERED WAGON

TESTED FOR AFRICAN TRAIL

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July Announcement

THE REGULAR JULY MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held at 8:15 P. M., Wednesday, July 17, in May Treat Morrison Auditorium. This month's lecturer will be Dr. Robert T. Orr, Curator of Birds and Mammals at the Academy, who will present:

"SUNRISE SERENADES"

Three members of the grouse family of North America—the Prairie Chicken, the Sharp-Tailed Grouse and the Sage Hen—and some of their unusual habits are the subjects of this fascinating nature film.

The film depicts the extraordinary courtship habits of the three kinds of grouse as they select their courting grounds and—either in the early morning or late evening—begin the dances and vocal utterances of the courtship rituals and ceremonies.

The male birds are the ceremonious members of the grouse family. The females gather at the courting ground but are seemingly indifferent to the antics of the males. While the rituals are in progress, the males are just as indifferent to the females.

These courtship habits are a contributing factor to the drastic curtailment of the range of these three kinds of grouse. Their enemies have little trouble locating the grouse when they are in the midst of their ceremonies.

Once widely distributed throughout much of the prairie areas of the Western United States, the Rocky Mountains—both in this country and Canada—and as far south as New Mexico, as far north as Alaska and as far east as the Atlantic Coast, the grouse are becoming increasingly scarce—partly because of the agricultural inroads of the white man into the prairies.

This film record in sound and color—which will be accompanied by Dr. Orr's lecture—was made under extremely difficult conditions in the plains of Western Missouri, the Rocky Mountains and Saskatchewan. Academy members and their friends are cordially invited to attend.

NEXT STOP: AFRICA

NOW SOMEWHERE ON the high seas, Dr. Edward S. Ross, the Academy's Curator of Entomology, is enroute to Africa where he will spend the better part of the next year collecting and photographing insects and other "small" game. Accompanied by Mrs. Ross and Robert E. Leech and a specially outfitted truck complete with a convertible covered wagon on top (where the expedition members will sleep while in the field), Dr. Ross sailed aboard the freighter *Delcampo* from New Orleans June 14 and expects to dock at the port city of Matadi, Africa, July 24.

The trio will leave that city behind the next day to begin the work of the expedition, co-sponsored by the Academy, the National Geographic Society and

a grant through the San Francisco Foundation. After some work in the rain forests near Matadi, the Rosses and Leech will strike out for the Eastern Congo highlands where the major work will be done.

ALASKA ATTRACTS DIRECTOR

SCIENTIFIC WORK in other locales seems to have much attraction at the Academy this summer. Academy Director Dr. Robert C. Miller left San Francisco June 18 for Alaska and a project which will keep him away from his desk until mid-August.

Accompanied by Mrs. Miller, Dr. Miller drove his car as far as Fairbanks and from there traveled to the Arctic Research Laboratory at Point Barrow. During July, Dr. Miller is working on a project for the Arctic Institute of North America studying the effect of radar on orientation of birds. Certain observations have been made indicating that a flight of birds becomes disorganized by radar beams. Dr. Miller is investigating this in more detail.

Dr. G. Dallas Hanna, the Academy's Curator of Geology, who has been at Point Barrow for the past year, will collaborate on the project.

NEW MAN JOINS STAFF

WARM WELCOMES were recently extended to Charles F. Hagar, who joined the Academy staff July 1 as assistant Curator of Astronomy and assistant manager of Morrison Planetarium.

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. George Bunton, an informal welcoming reception was held for Hagar, thus providing an opportunity for him to meet other staff members.

Hagar comes to the Academy from Griffith Observatory and Planetarium, where he worked from 1946 to the present and where he was Head Observatory Guide and planetarium lecturer from 1952 until the move north.

He is a graduate of UCLA in astronomy and is currently working toward an M. A. in mathematical astronomy. He has also conducted courses in astronomy at Pepperdine College and at USC.

NOTED SCIENTIST VISITS GEOLOGY

A WELL-KNOWN GEOLOGIST with the United States Geological Survey, Dr. W. P. Woodring was a recent visitor at the Academy's Department of Geology, reports Dr. Leo Hertlein, associate Curator.

Dr. Woodring spent most of his visit in the department studying type specimens of Tertiary mollusks from tropical American regions.

And speaking of mollusks, Allyn G. Smith, research malacologist and executive assistant to the director, brought back a collection of recent ones from Hawaii where he spent four weeks relaxing and collecting.

NEW FACE IN THE SWAMP

THAT BEAKED, unfriendly face which pokes out of the water in Steinhart Aquarium's swamp every so often belongs to a 100-pound alligator snapping turtle which the aquarium recently received from the Fort Worth Aquarium and Zoo in exchange for Leopard sharks and Moray eels.

The Texas aquarium also notified Dr. Earl Herald, Curator of Steinhart,